

I

WEOBLEY RURAL DISTRICT

Herefordshire



Joint

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and of the

Public Health Inspector

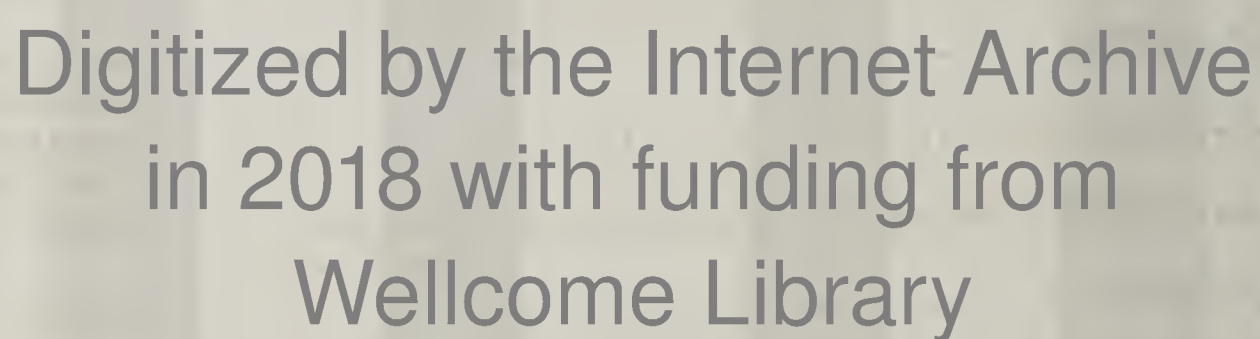
for the year 1972

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(As at 31st December 1972)

E. ARNOLD	Preston-on-Wye
Sir D.T.L. BAILEY, Bart.	Brinsop and Wormesley
G.B. BRAY	Dilwyn
C. COLBATCH CLARK	Canon Pyon
Sir R.C.G. COTTERELL, Bart. C.B.E.,	Mansel Gamage
Mrs. V.A.C. COTTERELL	Bridge Sollars and Byford
Major D.J.C. DAVENPORT (Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee)	Mansel Lacy
Mrs. L.A. DAVENPORT	Yazor
K.F. DAVISON (Chairman of the Council)	Staunton-on-Wye
Major J.B. FOWLER	Canon Pyon
Lt. Col. E.R.F. GILBERT (Chairman of the Water and Sewerage Committee)	Bishopstone
R.J. GREENE	Eardisland and Stretford
J.L. GRIFFITHS	Eardisland and Stretford
J.L. HUGHES (Chairman of the Health and Housing Committee)	Norton Canon
W.G. JENKINS	Almeley
A.I. LEWIS	Brobury & Monn- ington-on-Wye
Mrs. M.A. LOCKLEY	Dilwyn
H.T. LOCKLEY	Dilwyn
R.A. MARSHALL	Kinnersley and Sarnesfield
Miss E.M. MORGAN	Moccas
T.O. NICHOLLS	Birley
C.J. NORMAN (Chairman of the Rating Committee)	Weobley
O.B. PUGH	Blakemere
S. SIMONS	Weobley
Major W.R.D. VERDIN, J.P. (Vice-Chairman of the Council)	King's Pyon
Mrs. M. WATT	Letton

Clerk of the Council .. I.W. BROWN



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To the Chairman and Members of the Weobley Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health and of the Public Health Inspector for the year 1972.

Dr. G.D.K. Needham resigned as Medical Officer of Health on 31st December, 1972, and as no successor has been appointed I have been acting M.O.H., for the Northern Districts. This is in addition to acting for Hereford City, who are also without a Medical Officer of Health.

This report has been prepared by the Public Health Inspector and by the Clerk at Leominster Public Health Office, and is presented in the usual format as in previous years. As this is probably the last occasion to present an Annual Report, it has been thought to be timely to include a review of the conditions of the district of 50 years ago (pages 21 to 24) and also a short review of some of the interesting events leading up to Mr. Morley's appointment in December 1951 (pages 25 to 28). There is also an additional item, population statistics, on pages 10 and 11.

Thanks are due to Mr. Morley for his interesting and informative report, and congratulations are extended to him upon his 'coming of age' in December of last year (see page 25).

John Sleigh, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Acting Medical Officer of Health,
North Herefordshire.

Medical Officer of Health,
South Herefordshire.

LEONARD MORLEY, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.A.R.D.S.,
Cert. Meat and Other Foods,
Public Health Inspector and Surveyor, Housing Officer,
Council Offices, Whitehill House,
WEOBLEY. (Telephone: Weobley 395/6)

C.A. PREECE, Medical Officer of Health's Clerk,
North Herefordshire Public Health Office,
Westfield Walk,
LEOMINSTER. (Telephone: Leominster 2049)

Technical Assistant: G. MITCHELL

Clerk to the Public Health Inspector and Surveyor: Miss Z.M. OAKENFULL

STATISTICS AND VITAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	49,727
Estimated mid-year home population .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,760
Average number of persons per acre .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.11
Number of inhabited houses.. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,997
Average number of inhabited houses per acre .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	.04
Average number of persons per house .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	2.9
Rateable value .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	£125,022
Sum represented by a Penny Rate .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	£1,160

LIVE AND STILL BIRTHSLive Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	41	25	66
Illegitimate	1	3	4
	<u>42</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>70</u>

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

Comparability factor: 1.21	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968
Weobley R.D. (Crude)	12.2	14.0	11.7	15.2	18.6
" " (Adjusted)	14.8	16.4	13.7	17.8	21.8
England and Wales	14.8	16.0	16.0	16.3	16.9

Illegitimate Live Births:

Per cent of total live births:

	1971	1972
Weobley R.D.	5.0	6.0
England & Wales	8.0	9.0

Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births:

	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968
Weobley R.D.	Nil	13.0	Nil	11.5	Nil
England and Wales	12.0	12.0	13.0	13.0	14.3

INFANT DEATH RATESEarly Neonatal MortalityDeaths of Infants under 1 week old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:

Weobley R.D.	..	14.0
England and Wales	..	10.0

Neonatal MortalityDeaths of Infants under 4 weeks old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	1	1

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:

Weobley R.D.	..	29.0
England and Wales	..	12.0

Perinatal MortalityStill Births and Deaths of Infants under 1 week old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Weobley R.D.	..	14.0
England and Wales	..	22.0

Infant MortalityDeaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	1	1

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 related live births:

		1972	1971	1970	1969	1968
Weobley R.D.	(Total	43.0	25.0	Nil	Nil	37.7
	(Legitimate	30.0	27.0	Nil	Nil	30.9
	(Illegitimate	250.0	Nil	Nil	Nil	111.0
England and Wales (Total		17.0	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.3

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Total number of Maternal Deaths .. Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Weobley R.D. .. Nil
 England and Wales .. figure not yet available

DEATHS

	Males	Females	Total
Total number of deaths from all causes:	42	44	86

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

Comparability factor: 0.85	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968
Weobley R.D. (Crude)	14.9	11.2	8.8	12.5	14.0
" " (Adjusted)	12.7	10.4	8.2	11.6	13.6
England and Wales	12.1	11.6	11.7	11.9	11.9

Cancer

	Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Malignant Disease:	7	7	14

Cancer Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968
Weobley R.D.	2.43	1.77	1.77	3.17	2.46
England and Wales	2.43	2.39	2.36	2.35	2.27

Cardio-Vascular Disease

	Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Cardio-Vascular Disease:	23	23	46

Cardio-Vascular Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968
Weobley R.D.	7.99	6.74	5.13	6.35	7.37
England and Wales	6.24	5.99	5.94	6.01	6.06

Respiratory Disease (excluding Tuberculosis)

	Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Respiratory Disease:	5	4	9

Respiratory Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968
Weobley R.D.	1.56	0.88	1.42	1.76	1.58
England and Wales	1.72	1.53	1.76	1.77	1.75

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

	Males	Females	Total
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	3	4
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	1	-	1
Other malignant neoplasms	4	1	5
Diabetes mellitus	-	1	1
Avitaminoses, etc.	-	1	1
Other endocrine etc. diseases	-	1	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	-	1	1
Ischaemic heart disease	13	6	19
Other forms of heart disease	2	3	5
Cerebrovascular disease	4	8	12
Other diseases of circulatory system	4	5	9
Pneumonia	3	3	6
Bronchitis and emphysema	1	1	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
Peptic ulcer	2	-	2
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	1	1	2
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	-	1	1
Congenital anomalies	1	1	2
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	-	1	1
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	2
All other accidents	1	1	2

42	44	86
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INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE DURING THE YEAR 1972

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Measles	-	5	-	13	2	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	23
Scarlet Fever	-	3	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	7
Meningococcal Infection	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Dysentery	-	-	1	-	21	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	37
Food Poisoning	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis:													
Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2
Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASEWeobley Rural District

Disease	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968
Whooping Cough	-	2	-	4	11
Measles	6	80	13	3	44
Scarlet Fever	5	-	6	2	6
+Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	1	-
Dysentery	1	-	-	-	1
Food Poisoning	-	3	-	-	1
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	1	2	-	2	1
Non-Pulmonary	-	1	-	-	-

North Herefordshire

Whooping Cough	-	5	-	4	18
Measles	23	291	146	35	526
Scarlet Fever	7	6	10	4	11
Acute Encephalitis:					
Post-Infectious	-	-	-	-	1
+Infective Jaundice	1	4	10	106	8
Meningococcal Infection	1	-	2	-	-
Dysentery	37	2	2	1	17
Food Poisoning	1	11	16	9	6
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	2	7	3	4	1
Non-Pulmonary	1	2	1	2	3

+Notifiable from 15.6.68.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASEComparative case rates per 1,000 population

Disease	North Here- fordshire	England & Wales
Measles	0.62	2.97
Scarlet Fever	0.19	0.23
Infective Jaundice	0.03	0.25
Meningococcal Infection	0.03	0.03
Dysentery	1.00	0.18
Food Poisoning	0.03	0.11
Tuberculosis:		
Pulmonary	0.05	0.18
Non-Pulmonary	0.03	0.05

TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Number on Register at 31st December, 1971.	13	8	4	5
New cases notified	1	-	-	-
Recovered	2	1	3	1
Died from other cause	-	-	-	1
Moved out of district	10	7	-	2
Number on Register at 31st December, 1972.	2	-	1	1

Year	New Notifications	Total cases on Register	Deaths	Recoveries
1968	1	31	1	-
1969	2	31	-	-
1970	-	30	-	1
1971	3	30	1	-
1972	1	4	-	7

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

No action needed to be taken under this section during the year.

POPULATION CHANGESWeobley Rural District

Year	Popula- tion	Decrease	Increase	Births	Deaths	Natural Increase	Natural Decrease	Emigra- tion	Immigra- tion
1949	6491								
1950	6349	142		126	84	42		184	
1951	6518		169	133	76	57			112
1952	7112		594	169	70	99			495
1953	6939	173		148	84	64		237	
1954	6940		1	136	79	57		56	
1955	6920	20		158	72	86		106	
1956	6930		10	150	81	69		59	
1957	7030		100	164	84	80			20
1958	6960	70		138	66	72		142	
1959	6670	290		124	69	55		345	
1960	6300	370		106	63	43		413	
1961	5540	760		88	64	24		784	
1962	5530	10		89	56	33		43	
1963	5550		20	93	60	33		13	
1964	5590		40	89	55	34			6
1965	5610		20	94	67	27		7	
1966	5620		10	89	56	33		23	
1967	5680		60	102	55	47			13
1968	5700		20	106	80	26		6	
1969	5670	30		86	71	15		45	
1970	5650	20		66	50	16		36	
1971	5640	10		79	63	16		26	
1972	5760		120	70	86		16		136

This table shows that during the period 1950-72. there was a decrease in population of 731, as a result of an excess of 1,012 of births over deaths, and a net emigration of 1,743.

POPULATION CHANGESNorth Herefordshire

Year	Popula- tion	Decrease	Increase	Births	Deaths	Natural Increase	Natural Decrease	Emigra- tion	Immigra- tion
1949	38701								
1950	38799		98	669	520	149		51	
1951	38940		141	695	476	219		78	
1952	39160		220	726	475	251		31	
1953	38943	217		693	484	209		426	
1954	38890	53		644	506	138		191	
1955	38770	120		621	496	125		245	
1956	38660	110		630	486	144		254	
1957	38690		30	646	511	135		105	
1958	38500	190		639	475	164		354	
1959	38190	310		603	458	145		455	
1960	37890	300		619	437	182		482	
1961	36250	1640		554	467	87		1727	
1962	36320		70	579	486	93		23	
1963	36420		100	598	517	81			19
1964	36800		380	612	422	190			190
1965	36930		130	617	439	178		48	
1966	36950		20	573	505	68		48	
1967	36970		20	621	429	192		172	
1968	37200		230	534	497	37			193
1969	37000	200		554	495	59		259	
1970	37010		10	525	473	52		42	
1971	36820	190		542	448	94		284	
1972	37320		500	512	494	18			482

This table shows that during the period 1950-72, there was a decrease in population of 1,381, as a result of an excess of 3,010 of births over deaths, and a net emigration of 4,391.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S SECTION OF REPORTPHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND EMPLOYMENT IN THE DISTRICT

The Rural District is situated in the North Western portion of the County. It comprises 26 parishes covering an area of 49,727 acres of mainly agricultural land, and whilst there are no large villages, each parish has a village or hamlet forming a nucleus.

There is very little, if any, other form of industry apart from farming in the area and for some years now there has been a decrease in the number of people turning to agriculture for a livelihood. Many young people, quite naturally, tend to go to Hereford or Leominster to work. Also, quite a large number prefer to move away completely from the Rural area into the larger towns, such as Birmingham, where there is much more scope by way of employment and leisure.

WATER SUPPLIES(a) Regional and Village Supplies

The whole of the district is within the statutory area of the supply of the Herefordshire Water Board and mains supplies are available in the greater portion of the District.

Water Supplied from Public Mains direct to Houses (including farm-houses)

<u>Parish</u>	<u>No. of Houses</u>	<u>Approx. Population</u>
Almeley	99	297
Birley	25	75
Bishopstone	64	192
Blakemere	16	48
Bridge Sollars	3	9
Brinsop	6	18
Brobury	2	6
Byford	44	132
Canon Pyon	133	399
Dilwyn	128	384
Eardisland	57	171
Kinnersley	31	93
King's Pyon	72	216
Letton	10	30
Mansel Lacy	36	108
Moccas	19	57
Monnington-on-Wye	8	24
Norton Canon	69	207
Preston-on-Wye	30	90
Sarnsfield	4	12
Staunton-on-Wye	115	345
Stretford	---	---
Weobley	305	915
Yazor	22	66

Water Supplied from Private Mains

<u>Parish</u>	<u>No. of Houses</u>	<u>Approx. Population</u>
Bridge Sollars	2	6
Brinsop	3	9
Canon Pyon	2	6
Mansel Lacy	4	12
Norton Canon	2	6
Wormesley	6	18
Yazor	4	12

Water Supplied from Public Mains by means of Standpipes

Bishopstone	1	3
Weobley	10	30

The water supplied from these public and private mains is satisfactory in both quality and quantity.

b) The Examination and Sampling of Water Supplies

During the year 96 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination as follows:-

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Total</u>
Public Supplies (chlorinated)	72	10	82
Other Supplies (wells, springs and private supplies)	6	8	14
	78	18	96

Where supplies have proved to be unsatisfactory, occupiers were notified that water used for drinking purposes should be boiled prior to use. Where appropriate, the Herefordshire Water Board has also been informed.

No samples were submitted for chemical analysis during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The new sewerage disposal works in Weobley is working very well indeed and is capable of dealing with the liquid wastes from surrounding areas.

Further consideration has been given, by the Council, towards extending the existing works at Dilwyn which will enable expansion in that Village to proceed. At the time of writing this report, arrangements are in hand to obtain Planning Approval for the additional land required and it is a matter of some importance that the sewage works extensions be constructed without undue delay as already the Council is aware of difficulties being encountered over sludge drying. Moreover, the effluent from the works must be kept at a high standard as there is only a limited volume of water available in the nearby stream into which the effluent discharges.

The proposals for sewer^{ing} Preston-on-Wye were well advanced at the close of the year and the scheme should be completed during 1973.

A number of recent reports have been received regarding nuisances in the Ledgemoor area of King's Pyon; here the Council is preparing proposals for a scheme which will cover both Ledgemoor and the Weobley Marsh area, including a pump house, and pumping main for raising the sewage into the public sewers at Burton Wood, Weobley. This scheme should be ready to go out to public tender by September/October, 1973. The latter is next on the Council's priority list, following Preston-on-Wye, as the nuisances in the Ledgemoor area are progressively becoming more objectionable.

At Almeley, a temporary sewage purification unit has been installed by a building firm to handle liquid wastes from private housing developments near the Bells' Inn. In other parts of the Village individual private dwellings have been constructed in recent years and there is now an urgent need for a public sewerage scheme for the Village.

The Council has in past years received reports on nuisances from septic tank effluent in the area and the time is fast approaching when a Village sewerage scheme should be given priority, otherwise there is little doubt that complaints will increase.

The Bishopstone Scheme has been under construction for several months; progress has been slow, due to unusually difficult ground conditions which have been encountered. Once installed, however, the serious nuisances previously reported will have been remedied.

During 1973 it seems likely that the Consulting Engineers will be submitting proposals for sewer^{ing} Staunton-on-Wye and Norton Canon. By employing pumps and rising mains, it is possible that Kinnersley and Almeley could be catered for at the new works which will eventually be constructed at Staunton-on-Wye.

The Eardisland Parish Council has made representation to the Weobley Rural District Council regarding the need for sewer^{ing} Eardisland. It seems likely that this matter will receive further attention by your Council during 1973, with a view to the preparation of a suitable Village Scheme.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

There are no public swimming baths within the area. A small pool is, however, in use at Weobley County Primary School for the use of pupils. Samples of water from the Baths are regularly submitted for bacteriological examination.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Council is responsible for the collection and disposal of household refuse from both the Kington Rural District Council and Weobley District Council Areas. Since the last report a weekly collection service has been inaugurated and is working smoothly.

The Council's intention to go forward with the introduction of a plastic sack collection service, with "Brockhouse" type plastic bins as holders, was thwarted on account of a last minute Government request

to curb expenditure. The furtherance of such a scheme will now rest with the Leominster District Council, who will assume office on the 1st April, 1974.

DISINFECTIONS

Terminal disinfection is carried out as requisite.

THE PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The appointment of a private contractor to survey the District and survey and treatment of Council owned properties proved to be unsatisfactory. In June the Health and Housing Committee received a report and recommended that an additional member of the staff be engaged with a view to undertaking the duties previously undertaken by a contractor and at the same time, the Council agreed that treatment of private dwellings by the Council's employee should be resumed at a "free service".

It was not until early November that a suitable operator was found, but by the close of the year he had received training through the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Department and was usefully employed in rodent control duties throughout the area.

SYNOPSIS OF INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR

As required in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 20 of Article 25 of the Public Health Officers' Regulations, 1959.

Inspection Under	Number	Informal Notices Served	Statutory Notices Served	Notices Complied With
Animal Boarding Establishments	2			
Building Inspections and New Buildings	399	10		10
Building Plans	128			
Building Regulations	10			
Council Housing Schemes	121			
Council House Management and Maintenance	299	12		12
Council House Tenancy Investigations	46			
Drainage	4			
Discretionary Improvement Grants	66			
Establishment	7			
Food Premises	10			
Housing Act, 1969	1			
Housing (F.P.) Act Section 41	23			
Housing Inspections	23			
Infectious Diseases	1			
Ice-cream Licences and Samples	2			
Industrial Relations	1			
Inspection of District	1			
Local Government Reorganisation	6			
Meat Inspections	120			
Miscellaneous	81			
Moveable Dwellings	13			
Nuisances	74	12		12

SYNOPSIS OF INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR (cont.)

Inspection Under	Number	Informal Notices Served	Statutory Notices Served	Notices Complied With
Petroleum Inspections	4			
Public Health Act (Fire Escape)	1			
Public Health Act Duties (misc)	1			
Public Offices	7			
Public Conveniences	3			
Refuse Collection and Disposal	138			
Rodent Control	22	2		2
Slaughterhouses	4			
Sewage Disposal	274			
Standard Improvement Grants	37			
Valuation of Property	8			
Water Samples	84	20		20
Water Supplies	35			
Totals	2056	56		56

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

There are no large factories within the rural area and the number of persons employed in such factories as exist is quite small.

The list of factories within the rural area is as follows:-

PARISH	FACTORIES Mechanical Power		Total	Other Premises
	With	Without		
Almeley	1	-	1	1
Blakemere	2	-	2	-
Canon Pyon	3	-	3	1
Dilwyn	1	-	1	-
Eardisland	1	-	1	1
Moccas	1	-	1	-
Norton Canon	1	-	1	1
Preston-on-Wye	1	-	1	1
Weobley	6	-	6	1
Totals	17	-	17	7

The 'Other Premises' described in the foregoing list of factories include workshops, such as tradesmen's premises at which no one except the owners are employed. These premises are outside the definition of "Factories" as described in the Act.

HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT 1958 AND HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959

Discretionary Improvement Grants

The scheme has been implemented by the Council since 1952 and so far 243 proposals have been approved. Dwellings improved under this scheme now amount to 12.2% of the total of occupied houses.

Twenty-five schemes were approved by the Council during the year.

Standard Improvement Grants

This method of improving old properties continues to be well received and during the year 21 applications were made and approved, with 15 completed and paid

Since the inauguration of the scheme in 1959, some 324 proposals, amounting to about 16.3% of the total of occupied houses in the area, have been approved, five of these being later withdrawn by the applicants.

COUNCIL HOUSING AND BUILDING DEVELOPMENT

The conversion and improvement scheme for converting Brook House into two dwellings and improving Brook Cottage at Canon Pyon, was substantially completed and occupied during this year.

Little progress was made with the proposal to erect eight houses and four bungalows at Preston-on-Wye as drainage facilities cannot be made available until the proposed Public Sewerage Scheme for the village is installed.

A summary of the various Council Housing Schemes is given on a following page.

PRIVATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Only five new private dwellings were completed during the year, this number being less than the previous year and can be attributable to the scarcity of suitable building plots within the area.

The County Planning Authority policy of building within village communities has meant that small plots of land situated elsewhere cannot, save in exceptional circumstances, be used for housing purposes.

Towards the close of the year, largely owing to the commencement of development on a larger site at Almeley, thirty-three dwellings were under construction throughout the district, and there was a likelihood that a large site at Weobley could before too long be available to contractors for housing development.

SUMMARY OF COUNCIL HOUSING SCHEMES

PARISH	Completed	Year	Under construction	Houses in preparatory stages	Year
Almeley	8	1951	-	-	-
	2	1955	-	-	-
	11	1956	-	-	-
	4	1969	-	-	-
Bishopstone	2	1945	-	-	-
	12	1966	-	-	-
	2	1969	-	-	-
Canon Pyon	2	1945	-	-	-
	14	1965	-	-	-
(Bungalows)	6	1965	-	-	-
	1	1965	-	-	-
	1	1967	-	-	-
(Conversion)	1	1971	-	-	-
	1	1972	-	-	-
Dilwyn	12	1953	-	-	-
	4	1955	-	-	-
Eardisland	4	1954	-	-	-
	15	1955	-	-	-
King's Pyon	6	1966	-	-	-
Norton Canon	2	1944	-	-	-
	4	1966	-	-	-
(Bungalows)	2	1966	-	-	-
Letton Conversion	2	1966	-	-	-
Moccas	7	1969	-	-	-
Preston-on-Wye	-	-	-	12	1962
Staunton-on-Wye	14	1966	-	-	-
" " " Louvain	2	1968	-	-	-
Weobley	14	1949	-	-	-
	10	1955	-	-	-
	22	1956	-	-	-
	9	1957	-	-	-
(Conversion)	1	1948	-	-	-
	2	1952	-	-	-
	5	1952	-	-	-
	3	1958	-	-	-
(Bungalows)	6	1961	-	-	-
	6	1961	-	-	-
	20	1962	-	-	-
(Grouped Dwellings)	22	1970	-	-	-
(Varden's Flat)	1	1970	-	-	-
(Bungalows - General Needs)	4	1970	-	-	-
Total	266			12	

FINANCIAL ADVANCES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, PURCHASE OR RECONDITIONING OF HOUSES

Since 1956 it has been the Council's policy to advance money for the purposes stated in the heading and three applications were considered and approved during the year.

Advances made since 1956 are as follows:-

a) For the construction of new dwellings	16
b) For the purpose of purchase, repair or improvement of existing dwellings	78

BUILDING PLANS

A total of 350 applications were dealt with during the year as follows:-

Accesses	14
Alterations and improvements	85
Car Ports	3
Central Heating	7
Change of use	9
Connection to Public Sewers	4
Conservatories, porches, etc.	11
Conversions	1
Drainage	10
Farm Buildings	51
Garages	52
Illuminated Signs	1
Moveable Dwellings	6
Private Houses	57
Residential Developments	6
Sanitary Accommodation	4
Sheds, Greenhouses, etc.	14
Stables	1
Stores	5
Telephone Exchange	1
Village Halls	2
Workshops	2

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM SPIRIT AND CARBIDE

At the end of the year petrol storage capacity amounted to 57,460 gallons.

There are eight filling stations and thirty-six private storage tanks licenced for the storage of petroleum spirit.

No licences were issued during the year for the storage of carbide.

HOP PICKERS' ACCOMMODATION

The introduction of machinery for hop-picking has meant that local labour has largely satisfied the demands on smaller farms, thus very few dwellings were used during the season.

Number of farms having accommodation for pickers: 2

SCHOOL MILK SUPPLIES

By arrangement with the County Council, samples of milk are obtained and submitted for bacteriological and also biological examination.

FOOD PREMISES

Food premises in the area are as follows:-

Butchers' shops	2	School canteens	3
Grocers' shops	6	Snack Bars and Cafes	3
Inns & Hotels	17	Other small shops	12

The other small shops mentioned sell sundry items of food and sweets in prepacked wrappers.

Throughout the year, from time to time, miscellaneous inspections of food premises were undertaken during the course of other visits, but 24 inspections were made specifically in connection with Food Hygiene Regulations.

Number of premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16	48
Number of premises to which Reg. 19 applies	48
Number of premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19.	48
Premises registered under Food & Drugs Act, 1955, for storage and sale of ice-cream	34

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND BUTCHERS' SHOPS

There are two private slaughterhouses in Weobley, both of which are used regularly. During the year -

150 Beasts 121 Sheep 543 Lambs 423 Pigs

were slaughtered at the two establishments and, after inspection, the following meat was considered to be unfit for human consumption.

Livers:-

15 Bovine 36 Pigs 43 Sheep

By comparison with 1971, 3.6% less animals were slaughtered in the area.

A 100% inspection of all carcasses and organs has been maintained.

THE DISTRICT FIFTY YEARS AGO

In 1922, Dr. Herbert Jones was the Medical Officer of Health of the Herefordshire Combined Districts, comprising Bromyard, Dore, Hereford, Ledbury, Leominster, and Weobley Rural Districts, and the Bromyard Urban District. He worked from his home at Hereford on a full-time basis, and half of his salary was contributed from Exchequer grants. He had no allowance for clerical, office or travelling expenses.

Mr. Evan Lewis had been appointed Sanitary Inspector to the Weobley R.D.C., in 1916 and succeeded Mr. John Pember who had held office since 1900. Mr. Lewis was also Relieving Officer, having resigned his office of School Attendance Officer in March 1920. In May of that year he was appointed Inspector of Nuisances at a salary of £100 per annum. He paid his own travelling and incidental expenses, except stamps and stationery. One half of his salary was obtained from Exchequer grants.

Statistics of the Area

	Area (in acres)	Population	Rateable value	Penny Rate product	
Weobley R.D.	49,472	6,389	£65,728	£187	
	No. of Births	Birth Rate	No. of Deaths	Death Rate	Infant Mort- ality Rate
Weobley R.D.	136	21.2	111	17.3	66.0
England & Wales		20.8		12.9	77.0

Deaths and Notifications of Infectious Disease

8 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year and there were 7 deaths from this disease. 6 cases of diphtheria were also notified, but with no deaths.

Among other deaths recorded, 17 were from influenza and 6 from malignant disease.

Isolation Hospital

The Council paid a retaining fee to the Hereford Rural District Council for two beds in the Isolation Hospital at Credenhill. In 1922, five cases were treated there from Weobley, and 90 cases in the previous ten years.

Nursing Arrangements

Professional general nursing in the home was provided by the District Nursing Association, which was affiliated to and received grants from the County Nursing Association. The latter was subsidised by the Ministry of Health and by the County Council.

Nursing Arrangements (Continued)

The District Association was supported by local voluntary contributions and by a grant from the Board of Guardians. The Nurses were appointed by the District Association, and to a limited extent were under the supervision of the County Association Superintendent of Nurses, who was also a County Inspector of Midwives.

There were 8 (5 trained) midwives practising in the rural district. The Midwives Acts were administered by the County Council.

Clinic and Treatment Centres

Tuberculosis dispensaries were provided by the County Council in Hereford and Leominster, and were available for the Weobley Rural District.

Hospitals

In addition to the General Hospital at Hereford, the Cottage Hospitals at Leominster and Kington, and the Hereford Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, there was the Isolation Hospital at Credenhill, and the Poor Law Infirmary at Weobley with 20 beds.

Ambulance Facilities

A motor ambulance, owned by the Hereford R.D.C., was available for the removal of infectious cases on payment of mileage charges, and another ambulance, presented by the British Red Cross Society, was available for the removal of non-infectious cases also on payment of mileage charges.

Laboratory

Bacteriological and chemical examinations were made at the County and City Public Health Laboratory at Hereford, and during the year the following examinations were made:

For diphtheria	15
For tuberculosis	13
Water samples	13

Of the 13 water samples, 6 were said to be good, and 7 bad.

Nuisances

Numbers of inspections made by Mr. Lewis, as Inspector of Nuisances:

Housing Regulations	37	Slaughterhouses	21
Workshops	28	Schools	12
Dairies and Cowsheds	30	Water Supplies	26
Hop-Pickers' Quarters	20	Infectious Diseases	76
Bakehouses	28	Nuisances	34

Hop-Pickers

By-laws with respect to hop-pickers had been in force since 1907 and had had the effect of very considerably improving the conditions under which the pickers were housed. On the ten hop farms on which were employed pickers from outside the district, there were quartered about 350 pickers.

Dairies and Cowsheds

7 dairies and cowsheds were on the register, but no regulations regarding these had been made. Dr. Jones reported: "Greater cleanliness in the surroundings and on the part of the milkers is necessary. I repeat my recommendation of former years that Regulations should be made"

The Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, had just come into force: one of the provisions of the Act being that the sale of milk from a cow suffering from tuberculosis of the udder was prohibited.

Slaughterhouses

There were 4 slaughterhouses in the district, and Dr. Jones said: "I recommend that application should be made to the Ministry of Health under the provisions of the Public Health Act 1875, for an Order investing the District Council with powers to make by-laws with respect to slaughterhouses. The grounds on which I consider such application should be made are the difficulty of efficient supervision when the occupier has no definite regulations to follow, and the impossibility of adequate inspection of meat slaughtered on premises over which we have no control. It is not possible to say in which parishes slaughterhouses are likely to be required in the future. There are at present slaughterhouses in Dilwyn, Staunton-on-Wye and Weobley. They are kept in a fairly good condition"

Bakehouses

Bakehouses were situated at Canon Pyon, Dilwyn, Kinnersley, Preston-on-Wye, and Weobley (4). They were said to be kept fairly well.

Water Supply

There was a combined piped water supply to 14 houses and Jarvis's School Buildings in the parish of Staunton-on-Wye, and to 6 houses in the parish of Letton. Elsewhere supplies were obtained from wells and springs. In the 1920 Report Dr. Jones had referred to the condition of the central part of Weobley parish as regards water supply, and in his 1922 Report he very much regretted that no action had been taken to improve matters.

Sewerage and Drainage

A piped sewer serving about 100 houses had been laid in Weobley in 1893. The outfall, after passing over coke filter beds, discharged over about five acres of land. The total cost of the scheme had been £1,500. The drainage of the Workhouse was too far distant to be connected to the main sewer and Dr. Jones had recommended to the Council certain works of improvements to the system: these had been carried out by the Surveyor, Mr. F. Gwillim.

At Staunton-on-Wye, Jarvis's School Buildings and 14 houses had combined drainage.

In Dilwyn a few houses were connected to a common drain, and at Canon Pyon one licensed house and two other houses had a common drain.

At the Weobley Workhouse there were seven water closets and a few earth closets.

There were water closets at residential houses, elsewhere privy closets were in use. In an increasing number of instances earth closets and pail closets were being provided.

Schools

Of the 15 schools in the district, 4 had privy closet accommodation, 9 had pail closets, and 2 had trough closets - one of which was flushed by a waste water tipper.

Nine of the schools had water pumps, 2 relied on rain water, 2 had piped supplies, and 2 had no water on the premises.

Housing

Two new houses had been erected privately during the year. 37 houses had been inspected for housing defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts, and 10 of these were found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. 10 houses were also rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.

Workshops

Bakers	7
Blacksmiths	24
Bootmakers	8
Builders	3
Carpenters	6
Saddlers	1
Machinists	1
Tailors	1
Wheelwrights	11
Dressmakers	2

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

It is of interest to see that over the past 50 years, two Sanitary Inspectors (later to be known as Public Health Inspectors) completed 46 years' service between them: Mr. Evan Lewis having 25 years (a total from appointment of 31 years) and the present Public Health Inspector and Surveyor, Mr. Leonard Morley, having completed 21 years' service by December, 1972. Two other Sanitary Inspectors make up the other four years.

Eleven Medical Officers of Health held office over the 50 years: the longest serving being Dr. G.D.K. Needham, 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ years.

THE YEARS 1922-51

Upon looking through the Annual Reports from the year 1922 until Mr. Morley was appointed in December, 1951, the following matters of interest come to light:

Water

It appears that the Council of 1927 decided to bore for water in Weobley Village, but that there were many delays, most connected with breakages in tackle. The contractor however guaranteed completion of the work before Easter 1929. Though the quality of the water from this borehole was satisfactory, the quantity did not come up to expectation, and the last we hear of this is in 1930 when it was stated that "the question of future procedure is in abeyance"

The District was without a public water supply throughout the middle 1930's: there were a few public pumps and open wells vested in the Council, and there were small private piped water supplies in parts of Mansel Lacy, King's Pyon, Blakemere, and Letton, and a standpipe at Staunton-on-Wye.

It was reported in 1935 that a General Survey had been carried out in October of that year, at the end of a drought, to see how natural supplies had held out. "There was surprising little shortage of water in the district and no cases of extreme shortage were reported. Many cottagers have to carry water from a distance, but this they are accustomed to and most of the wells are liable to pollution. Houses are so scattered that the cost of any general supply of water would be prohibitive. Any attempt to institute a supply of water is vigourously resented, as it involves expense to the recipients or to the district in general. All that can be done at present is to try and maintain existing supplies in as good a condition as possible"

By 1938 we see that a scheme for the supply of water to Weobley Village had been instituted and completed, and that the whole village and a few of the outlying houses were supplied by the new public piped supply. This same year it was also stated that the Garnstone Estate had a piped supply from a spring to a central standpipe in the village of Dilwyn.

In 1951 it was reported that 119 houses were provided with a piped supply, and that 16 houses were served by standpipes from the Weobley public supply. The parishes of Mansel Lacy, Yazor, and Byford, received a piped supply from the Byford Pumping Station. Eardisland also had a small private piped supply.

Sewerage and Drainage

The only main drainage system in 1951 in the district was at Weobley. It "could not be regarded as being entirely satisfactory in its present state, but with constant supervision, the effluent is such that no complaints have been received. Consideration should be given towards effecting improvement at the outfall works"

This drainage system was basically that which had been in use since 1893, with some moderate improvements. In 1938 it is recorded that "The drainage from the whole village is conveyed to a large septic tank and thence through a coke filter. The effluent passes into an open channel across a large meadow towards the brook. In the centre of this meadow it causes a large and rather foul bog. In order to improve upon this state of affairs a 12" extension was carried across the meadow to a ditch between this meadow and the next. This meadow is a fair distance from any inhabited houses and between six and seven hundred years in length, emptying into the stream. The sewage effluent is now carried down this ditch which has been evacuated and kept in good condition by the Council. The effect of the installation of a piped water supply upon the efficiency of a sewage disposal plant must be watched during the coming year"

In Dilwyn Village a length of sewer (about 600 feet) was owned by the Council in the early 1940's. "It will be incorporated later in the proposed main drainage scheme for the village" (1943 Report).

Housing

To see the situation more clearly, we must go back to 1919. On June 16th of that year a Housing Committee was appointed by the Council and it was decided to advertise for sites and to erect two houses in each of the following parishes: Canon Pyon, Dilwyn, Eardisland, Monnington-on-Wye, Preston-on-Wye, Weobley, and Yazor.

The Medical Officer of Health in the preface to his Annual Report said: "With regard to the number of houses to the acre, there has been a very general consensus of opinion among the members of the District Councils that each house should be upon a quarter-acre plot. This will not increase the total cost to an appreciable extent, as the average price of the sites is about £100, with extremes of about £50 and £150. Moreover, it is reasonable to expect that a higher rental will be obtained for a house on a quarter-acre plot than on one of half that extent"

"There is more difference of opinion when the accommodation to be provided is considered. I consider that it should include a parlour, kitchen, wash-house, scullery, bath, and three bedrooms. I have had the opportunity of discussing at meetings of the Women's Institutes and similar organisations the desirability of providing a parlour and a bath, and the opinion was unanimously expressed in favour of both. The advocates of a parlour urge that as a room in which can be placed personal possessions such as books, ornaments, pictures, etc., it tends to increase the self-respect of the tenant, that it can be used by the elder school children, an important point in these days of scholarship study, and that it can be used in time of need as a sick room"

Housing (Continued)

"With regard to the bath, I was informed that it is desirable even though no water is laid on and cold water has to be carried from a pump or hot water from a boiler, provided the bath has a waste pipe. In the opinion of the country housewife, the emptying of the bath with ease is apparently of more importance than the filling of it"

"The increased and increasing cost of building will, it is feared, necessitate the cutting out of some of the above essentials, though I consider it would be better to effect economies in other directions. One of these might well be the erection of more houses than at first contemplated in certain parishes, instead of scattering them in twos and fours over several parishes and thus increasing the cost of erection"

"When considering the number of bedrooms to be provided, it is desirable that the needs of old-age pensioners should not be ignored. There are at the present time in many parishes houses occupied by these old people which are far too large for their requirements, and if vacated for a smaller dwelling would relieve the pressing need of the parish"

On March 8th, 1920, the Council adopted a scheme to provide 60 houses in the district, 20 to be erected as early as practicable and 40 within three years. In addition to the previously mentioned parishes, these were to be built at Almeley, Bishopstone, Blakemere, Kinnersley, Norton Canon, and Staunton-on-Wye. An architect was appointed by the Council and plans for parlour and non-parlour types were approved.

By 1921 no houses had been built and none were in the course of construction, and it was stated that "Further progress of the schemes was abandoned on instructions from the Ministry of Health during the summer" Unfortunately the reason for this decision is not recorded.

The 1921 Census showed a total of 1,560 houses in the district, and the 1924 Annual Report showed a total of 1,378 'working class houses' of which 36 had 1 bedroom, 668 had 2 bedrooms, 471 had 3 bedrooms, and 203 had 4 bedrooms. These figures were produced by the Housing Survey of 1919.

During the years 1901 to 1925, some 69 houses had been built privately in the district.

The first dwelling-houses to be provided by the local authority were built at Norton Canon in 1944. These were two in number, and were followed in 1945 by two each at Bishopstone and Canon Pyon, 14 at Weobley in 1949, and 8 at Almeley in 1951.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

During the 1930's there was a periodic collection of refuse in the village of Weobley carried out by the Parish Council, and in 1938 there were three public tips: at Weobley, Eardisland, and at Staunton-on-Wye.

The first mention of the removal of refuse by the District Council was in 1942, and this was operative in the parishes mentioned above.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

In 1946, provision was made by the Council for the removal of incombustible household refuse in the whole of the district, on a quarterly basis, by a Contractor. Disposal was by uncontrolled tipping into disused sand or clay pits privately owned.

By 1949 a collection every six weeks was made in Weobley, Dilwyn, and Eardisland, and at three-monthly intervals in the remainder of the area. This system was continuing in 1951 when it was reported "Towards the latter part of the year, the Council were considering the adoption of a direct labour scheme of collection and disposal, with a view to effecting some improvement on present methods"

Slaughterhouses

In 1932 there was one registered and 8 licensed slaughterhouses in the district. "Owing to the low price of stock, a considerable amount of slaughtering has taken place in farm houses. This has thrown a great strain on the inspecting staff to ensure that conditions of slaughter, storage and disposal were satisfactory"

It was reported in 1951 that there were three private slaughterhouses in the area, all of which were closed.

